

Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

2007 DROUGHT AND BURN BAN SITUATION REPORT # 11 3 January 2008, 1400 Hours

New Information in Bold Italic Type

SUMMARY

Statewide precipitation for the previous water year (1 October 2006 through 30 September 2007) was below normal. Despite recent precipitation, exceptional drought conditions persist in portions of southwest Virginia.

EXECUTIVE ACTION

EOC Activation: The Virginia Emergency Operations Center is at Routine status and is operating with normal staff.

State of Emergency: Governor Timothy M. Kaine declared a Statewide Emergency on 18 October 2007 and imposed a statewide ban on all open burning. The statewide ban on open burning was lifted by Governor Timothy M. Kaine on 15 November. The Statewide Emergency remains in effect to deal with potential or actual drought related issues.

Governor Kaine requested that the Secretary of the US Department of Agriculture declare Virginia a statewide disaster area due to reductions in farm production caused by drought and high temperatures in 2007. The Acting US Secretary of Agriculture designated 78 additional counties and 34 independent cities as primary natural disaster areas on 18 October 2007 due to reductions in farm production caused by drought and high temperatures that occurred from January 1, 2007, and continuing.

Governor Kaine sent a letter to all localities dated 29 November 2007 advising them that the most effective water restrictions are those developed at the local level and asked that localities review their drought water conservation and contingency plans associated with public waterworks and if there was no current drought plan, one should be developed. Governor Kaine also asked localities to review their local ordinances requiring mandatory non-essential water use restrictions during declared emergencies and assure that the ordinances are consistent with the Virginia Drought Assessment and Response Plan and if the locality has not adopted such ordinances, they should consider the development and adoption of these. DEQ – [COV Drought Response Plan](#)

Executive Order: [Executive Order 57 \(2007\)](#)

WEATHER FORECAST

Southwest VA – Thursday, 3 Jan: *Mostly sunny; high temperatures will range mid to upper 20's; winds will be northwest 5 to 15 MPH. Thursday night: Mostly clear; low temperatures will range mid to upper teens; winds will be light and variable. Friday, 4 Jan: Sunny; high temperatures will range low to upper 40's; winds will be south-southwest 5 to 10 MPH. Friday night: Mostly clear; low temperatures in the low 20's; winds will be light and variable. .*

OPERATIONS SECTION

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ESF 5 – Emergency Management: Posting event related items to WebEOC under event titled “WebEOC, 2007-10 Drought and Burn Ban”; Participating as member of the Drought Monitoring Task Force; monitoring weather, river flow and precipitation reports; assessing the impact across the Commonwealth; limited exemption of hours worked for hay and feed carriers was extended until 0600 hours, 15 April 2008. [Limited Exemption of Hours Worked for Hay and Feed Carriers](#)

State Warning Point: Normal operations

Local Liaison: VDEM Regional Coordinators are monitoring drought impacts to localities in their region. VDEM Region Four Coordinator in contact with Scott County and Town of Dungannon officials reference a water infrastructure issue and monitoring a possible water shortage issue in Lee County.

EMERGENCY SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 4 – Firefighting: VA Department of Forestry reported light wildfire activity continued during the month of December. This would be considered a little out of the normal and a slight extension of the normal fall wildfire season. Since December 1, 2007 the DOF has responded to 42 wildfires which have burned 257 acres. Significant precipitation is needed this winter to help reduce the potential for what is beginning to look like a particularly busy spring. Even though the Statewide Ban on Open Burning has been lifted, VA Department of Forestry advises that several localities have implemented their own ban on burning and residents should check with their locality prior to conducting any open burning. [Local Burn Ban Restrictions](#)

ESF 8 – Public Health & Medical Services: Virginia Department of Health and Office of Drinking Water continue to monitor and stand by for consultation and coordination.

HUMAN SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 11 – Agriculture and Natural Resources: Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services reported that USDA crop weather report for the week ending December 2, 2007 indicated 64% of topsoil moisture was short to very short this week. Pastures and hayfields have shown little re-growth in most areas. Many producers who have not already begun feeding livestock started this week. All Virginia localities have access to federal drought disaster assistance. [VDACS Drought Related Information](#); [VDACS Hay Clearing House](#)

INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT BRANCH

ESF 1 – Transportation: The Virginia Department of Transportation and the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles jointly authorized a temporary waiver of registration and license requirements along with normal weight and width restrictions for the purpose of ensuring essential emergency relief supplies reach the disaster area in a timely manner. [Waiver to Carriers Specifically Transporting Hay and Feed Products within the Commonwealth](#)

ESF 3 – Public Works & Engineering: The Virginia Department of Health has not reported any impacts to public water supplies that have compromised their ability to provide the needs of their customers. 60 systems have initiated water conservation measures; 29 mandatory water conservation requirements and 31 voluntary water conservation requirements.

Precipitation deficits across the Commonwealth declined in all drought evaluation regions since the last report with precipitation remaining in the low end of the normal range in only the Southeast and Eastern Shore regions. Drought conditions have remained stable over the Commonwealth during the last month. Exceptional drought conditions persist in portions of southwest Virginia.

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Waterworks are encouraged to develop water conservation and contingency plans and local governments are encouraged to adopt local water conservation ordinances. [DEQ Water Conservation Tips](#): [US Drought Monitor - VA](#): [US Seasonal Drought Outlook](#)

DEQ chairs the Drought Monitoring Task Force and is conducting bi-weekly conference calls to monitor the drought impact and issues a monthly drought report. [DMTF Report December 2007](#)

PLANNING SECTION

Situation/Documentation Unit: Preparing and distributing weekly Situation Reports, monitoring WebEOC entries and maintaining situational awareness. ***Next Situation Report will be issued Thursday, 10 January 2008.***

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Wise County declared a local emergency on 31 October due to drought conditions that have caused a severe raw water supply shortage to retail water customers in Wise County. The Mayor and Town Council of Appalachia along with Wise County declared a water emergency and implemented conservation measures and prohibited non-essential water usage. An Emergency Virginia Water Permit was issued by the VA Department of Environmental Quality that permits withdrawal of 500,000 gallons per day from the Powell River and pumps it to their reservoir. The permit is valid for one year, however, if mandatory water conservation measures cease, the permit is invalid.

The Town of Dungannon and Scott County declared a local emergency on 9 November due to a water infrastructure issue involving the Town of Dungannon water system. The town believes they have a major leak in the system which supplies approximately 700 people. Leak detection operations continue; prior repair of leaks have allowed the system to hold its own. The boil water notice remains in effect. ***The water tank currently holds 29 feet of water and has a capacity of 39 feet.***

Lee County reported to the VDEM Region 4 Coordinator that at their current rate of water usage they would be out of water within 30 days. Lee County has not declared a local emergency and has not requested any official assistance at this time. The intake pipe at KVS Quarry needs to be relocated to deeper water. VDEM Recovery and Mitigation is assisting with contacts for possible funding sources to provide financial assistance in relocation of the intake pipe. Lee County has a contract with the Arthur-Shawnee System in Tennessee as an alternate source of water.

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